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Xanana Gusmão — the making of a leader

Now back in print!

XANANA GUSMÃO has been hailed as the 'poet warrior'. The leader of the National Council of Timorese Resistance endured incarceration in Cipinang Prison in Jakarta, Indonesia, and house arrest from 1992, but finally was able to return to his ravaged country in October 1999.

In 1994 while in gaol, he secretly wrote an autobiography. **This book features the first full publication in English of this autobiography.**

Some highlights of the autobiography include

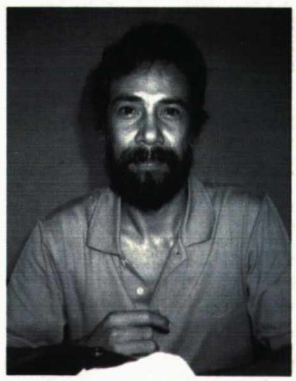
- His early years, including his education at a Jesuit-run seminary in Dare.
- First work experiences; a struggle to gain employment in the public service. Three years of national service under the Portuguese.
- On the fringes of the growing nationalist movement founded by, among others, José Ramos-Horta. Commitment to Fretilin; arrest by UDT party after the coup of August 1975.
- Release and move to the hills following the Indonesian invasion in October 1975.
- Development as a guerillas fighter and leader up until his capture in 1992.

With the autobiography is a select collection of his spoken and written work—speeches, interviews, essays, letters, political messages. The collection is organized chronologically, in sections that represent distinct periods of Gusmao's leadership. Some features of this remarkable material:

- Key primary-document collection of Gusmão's speeches and writings.
- Insights into the philosophy and ideals behind the struggle of the East timorese people for independence.
- Documentation of the evolution of a leader.
- Documentation of East Timor's tortured path to independence, from an insider's point of view.
- Insights into the personality of one of the world's prominent leaders.

Foreword by Jacob Rumbiak. Jacob Rumbiak works on behalf of a free West Papua. He spent five years in Cipinang Prison with Xanana Gusmão, working with him to organise sporting activities, prayer services and the fruit and vegetable garden.

This will be a must book for all who want more background to the extraordinary happenings in East Timor.



TO RESIST IS TO WIN
The Autobiography of
KAY RALA XANANA GUSMÃO
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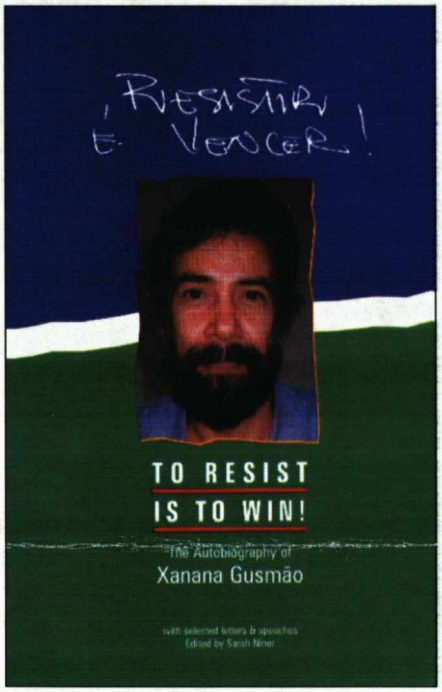

The Editor: Sarah Niner

Sarah Niner was in East Timor in 1991, at the time when Xanana Gusmão was living underground in Dili preparing for a visit by the Portuguese parliament. The cancellation of the visit was an element in the events that led to the Dili massacre. The oppressive situation in Dili at the time of her visit was strongly evident and had a powerful effect. On her return to Australia, through a chance encounter with a Timorese activist, Sarah became involved in solidarity work with the East Timorese community in Melbourne. In 1997, with a doctoral degree in mind, she began research for a biography of Xanana. It was then she found he had been in hiding in Dili while she visited there, and had lived in Darwin at the time she too was living there in 1975. She met Xanana, then under house arrest, in Jakarta in 1999 as he was organising the UN-sponsored ballot for East Timor. She feels privileged to have been with him on the day he celebrated his birthday in the prison.

Sarah welcomed the close involvement of the East Timor community of Melbourne and its supporters in translating Xanana Gusmão's words for this book. She is currently researching a biography of Gusmão. Sarah was born in Brighton, England. She has a BA in Professional Writing from Victoria College, and was awarded a scholarship to complete her PhD in Politics at La Trobe University.

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